

**From:** Swift, Heather  
**To:** [Rateike, Bradley A. EOP/WHO](#); [Dorr, Kaelan K. EOP/WHO](#); [Megan Bloomgren](#); [Love, Kelly A. EOP/WHO](#); [Laura Rigas](#)  
**Subject:** DOI Daily Comms  
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**INTERIOR**  
**WASHINGTON**

04/19/2017

**DAILY COMMUNICATIONS REPORT**

**TO:** White House Cabinet Affairs Communications

**FROM:** Heather Swift, Laura Rigas & Megan Bloomgren

**SUBJECT:** Communications Update

**Inquiries**

- AP (Michael Biesecker) REQUEST – AP is reporting on lobbying efforts by Dow Chemical and two other companies asking Secretary Zinke to void the findings of a four year review by federal scientists at EPA and Fish and Wildlife Service that found three pesticides -- chlorpyrifos, diazinon and malathion – are potentially harmful to more than 1,800 endangered and threatened species. This comes after EPA Administrator Pruitt denied a petition last month to ban chlorpyrifos after EPA scientists determined it could harm children's brains. Can you provide comment on whether the EPA is considering the industry request? Dow Chemical CEO Andrew Liveris is a close adviser to President Donald Trump, serving as head of the White House's manufacturing working group. Dow also wrote a \$1 million check to help underwrite Trump's inaugural festivities.

Has Secretary Zinke discussed the regulation of chlorpyrifos with Liveris or other Dow executives, their lawyers or their lobbyists? If the request is approved, any concern about the appearance that a politically connected donor is receiving preferential treatment? RESPONSE – "The Secretary has had no meetings on the subject with any of the parties you mentioned. I'd refer you to EPA for questions about their policies."

- High Country News (Elizabeth Shogren) REQUEST – Hi Heather and Megan, Did

Sec. Zinke or any political appointees play a role in the BLM decision this week not to offer oil and gas leases for auction in Grand County, CO? I'm wondering how this might or might not reflect the priority to open more lands for "all of the above energy development." Is there a principle/precedent here that reflects Sec. Zinke's philosophy? – RESPONSE – Bureau of Land Management is fielding the response and will redirect to the press release where it explains, "The BLM removed these 20 parcels due to low energy potential and reduced industry interest in the geographic area, as well as concern from local government and the public. The parcels were nominated before the latest revision to the land use plan for the area was completed."

- Bloomberg Magazine (Esme E. Deprez) – REQUEST - 1. There's been differing legal interpretations around the question of whether the Antiquities Act empowers the executive branch to rescind national monuments in addition to declaring them. Does DOI/Zinke have a position on this? 2. There seems to be a lot of confusion, among Bears Ears advocates and opponents alike, about where Zinke stands on the BE monument declaration and whether he believes it should be rescinded/shrunk. Can you provide any clarity as to where he stands? 3. Re: No. 2, I understand Zinke pledged during his confirmation hearing to go to Utah to visit the site and meet with local stakeholders. Do you have a possible time frame for that? Who specifically would he be sure to meet with while there? 4. A couple years ago, Headwaters Economics released a digest on permitted uses in natl monuments. I've been told that such an analysis isn't yet possible for Bears Ears, given the lack of a management plan, which could take years. Is that correct? Is there anything I could say about what is/not allowed in Bears Ears now vs. prior to Obama's declaration? I would like to be able to tell readers as much as I can. –

RESPONSE - Secretary Zinke is committed to responsible management of federal lands for multiple uses like recreation, energy development, and conservation, and he is opposed to selling federal lands. He has signaled his support for the creation of monuments when there is consent and input from local elected officials, the local community, and tribes prior to monument designations. While monuments often provide valuable local benefits, careful consideration is required before designating significant acreage out of reach of valuable tax revenue to fund community facilities and improvements. The Secretary remains committed to traveling to Utah and other states as he referenced in his confirmation hearing and making recommendations to the President.

Also, see below, Sec. Zinke was asked in the White House Press Briefing on April 3 what his plans were for Gold Butte and other monuments designated under President Obama.

His answer below. SECRETARY ZINKE: We are looking at everything across the board. When I came in, there was a lot of talk about different monuments in different places, and I talked to the senators. And so everything is on the board, looking at it. No monument in specific, but looking at the process, looking at the law, making sure that the monuments follow the law. And at the end of the day, it's important that we operate collaboratively. If you're outside of Washington, D.C., there's a lot of anger

out there. And I want the Department of Interior, our rangers and land managers, to be first viewed as rangers and land managers, not law enforcement. I don't want us to be heavy-handed. And I want us to work with local communities, because that's where we're embedded. Our rangers, they have children, they play soccer, they coach, they do all those things -- I want to make sure the Department of Interior is the department that works with local communities, works with the states, and we want to be the "yep" team; that means be an advocate rather than an adversary.

### **Top Stories**

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### **Top Issues and Accomplishments**

- PRESS RELEASE: [Secretary Zinke Announces \\$34.9 Billion Added to U.S. Economy in 2016 due to National Park Visitation](#)
- FYI: The U.S. Geological Survey will release a new report on “critical minerals” noting that the U.S. is 100% reliant on China for about half of all “critical minerals” and is reliant on Russia and Canada for many others. This could be a strong America First opportunity. We are working to ID messaging opportunities with upcoming rollout.
- TRAVEL Zinke is in California meeting with U.S. Park Police and staff at Golden Gate National Recreation Area.
- NEXT WEEK: On Monday, Zinke will participate in a business roundtable with outdoor recreation industry leaders about private investments into our national parks and public lands. Event will be held at Shenandoah NP. On Tuesday morning, Zinke will give a speech announcing the economic impact of outdoor recreation on the economy. Event will be at the Press Club in DC. Tuesday afternoon he will film a one-on-one with Brian Kilmeade of Fox and Friends on the National Mall. Focus is profile and on vision for Department. On Friday, Zinke will travel to Atlanta to speak at the NRA annual meeting.
- STILL AROUND: Secretaries Zinke, Carson, Chao, and DeVos will be profiled in Washington Post for the transition of power. Currently working with Juliet Elperin to shape the story. She is taking a lot of what we have to offer. Publishing next week.

- FYI: Wife and grandson of the founder of Merrell Boot Co went missing in the Grand Canyon over the weekend. Search teams are working. Lots of media attention.

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